Pharmacy and medical student interprofessional education placement week.

JEBARA, T., THOMAS, I., CUNNINGHAM, S. and RUSHWORTH, G.F.

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1	Pharmacy and medical student interprofessional education
2	placement week
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4	Authors
5	Tesnime Jebara ¹ , Ian Thomas ² , Scott Cunningham ¹ , Gordon F Rushworth ^{3*}
6	
7	¹ School of Pharmacy & Life Sciences, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen,
8	United Kingdom, AB10 7GJ
9	² Highland Medical Education Centre, Centre for Health Science, Inverness,
10	United Kingdom, IV2 3JH
11	³ Highland Pharmacy Education and Research Centre, Centre for Health
12	Science, NHS Highland, Inverness, United Kingdom, IV2 3JH
13	
14	Correspondence to
15	Gordon F Rushworth
16	Highland Pharmacy Education & Research Centre
17	Centre for Health Science, NHS Highland, Inverness, UK, IV2 3JH
18	Tel +44 (0) 1463 255036
19	Email gordon.rushworth@nhs.scot
20	
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23 Authors' contributions

24 *Dr Tesnime Jebara* meets conditions 1, 2, 3 and 4. She led the collection 25 and analysis of data in addition to the write-up of the manuscript and 26 approving it for publication. She agrees to be accountable for all aspects of 27 the work.

28

Ian Thomas meets conditions 1, 3 and 4. He led the conception and planning of the project and was involved in approving the manuscript for publication. He also agrees to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

33 <u>Prof Scott Cunningham</u> meets conditions 1, 2, 3 and 4. He led the collection 34 and analysis of data and was involved in drafting the manuscript as well as 35 approving it for publication. He also agrees to be accountable for all aspects 36 of the work.

37

Gordon F Rushworth meets conditions 1, 2, 3 and 4. He led the conception
 and planning of the project and was involved in the interpretation of data,
 the write-up of the manuscript and submission for publication. He also
 agrees to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

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Pharmacy and medical student interprofessional education

45 placement week

46

47 Abstract

Background: Developing collaborative practice through interprofessional
education activities (IPE) in undergraduate healthcare curricula is advocated
by the World Health Organisation and the regulatory bodies for Medicine
and Pharmacy within the UK.

52

Approach: Our local faculty, comprising educators from within the Highland
 Pharmacy Education & Research Centre (HPERC) and Highland Medical
 Education Centre (HMEC) developed a five-day IPE placement for pharmacy
 and medical students on clinical placement within NHS Highland.

57

Evaluation: We collected qualitative evaluation data using face-to-face 58 focus group discussions with five pharmacy and four medical students 59 (January 2020 cohort). Three key categories and multiple themes within 60 61 each category were identified from participant narratives. Category 1: 62 overall perception of experience - (themes: better than previous IPE experience; greater exposure to clinical pharmacy). Category 2: student 63 interactions – (themes: learning with a buddy; understanding of 64 interprofessional roles). Category 3: suggestions for improvement -65 (themes: choice of relevant clinical rotation and content; increase learning 66 from clinical pharmacists; better orientation to placement). Overall, 67 students valued their participation during this week and reported many 68

69	benefits of learning with students from another profession. Students also
70	highlighted suggestions to improve their learning experience.
71	
72	Implications: This evaluation has indicated students' support for
73	embedding interprofessional placements into their curricula. Clinical
74	educators should consider designing similar placements, while further work
75	should focus on inclusion of higher student numbers and look to include a
76	range of professions and practice settings.
77	
78	Keywords: Interprofessional education, multidisciplinary communication,
79	pharmacy education, medical education
80	
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82	
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84	Research Centre
85	
86	

87 Background

There is global interest in interprofessional education (IPE) to ensure collaborative and harmonious patient care delivery. According to Fransworth et al,¹ IPE first emerged in the United States and United Kingdom in the 1960s-1970s but gained more popularity following the publication of two World Health Organisation reports; Continuing Education for Physicians² and Learning Together to Work Together for Health³.

94

The Centre for the Advancement of Interprofessional Education (CAIPE) 95 defines interprofessional education as "occasions when two or more 96 97 professions learn with, from and about each other to improve collaboration and the quality of care".⁴ Preparing students for collaborative practice is 98 taking on ever-increasing importance in undergraduate healthcare 99 education. It gives students from different healthcare backgrounds the 100 chance to learn together to better prepare them for working in 101 multidisciplinary teams upon graduation. Regulators are calling for more 102 interprofessional learning opportunities during undergraduate curricula.^{5, 6} 103 104

105 Many countries across the world have taken steps to embed

106 interprofessional placements into their curricula such as in the United

¹⁰⁷ States⁷⁻⁹, Australia¹⁰, UK¹¹, Canada¹², and The Netherlands¹³. Literature

108 highlights many benefits of IPE including; understanding roles,⁷ readiness

¹⁰⁹ for teamworking,¹⁰ and taking a more active role in delivering care¹³.

110

111 While local MBChB and MPharm courses contain elements of IPE, these are

limited to non-clinical settings and there is no current opportunity for IPE
 clinical placements of a sizable duration.

114

In this article, we aim to describe and present an initial evaluation of an IPE experiential learning clinical placement for pharmacy and medical students.

117

118 Approach

We designed a week-long placement within an existing 4th year MBChB 119 placement block (cardiovascular, clinical pharmacology, vascular surgery, 120 121 and respiratory block) in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. There was no selection process for medical students as they were already due to be on 122 placement. However, we invited all 3rd and 4th year pharmacy students to 123 apply to attend, then convened a panel to review the applications. We 124 selected the top ranked pharmacy students and allocated placement dates 125 in order of student preference. 126

127

At the start of the placement, we introduced the medical and pharmacy students to each other then buddied them into pairs. The placement coordinator then discussed the learning objectives (see box 1), timetabled activities, assessments, and answered any questions.

132

133 [Insert Box 1]

During the week, the students were given ample time for clinical experience with opportunity to attend ward rounds, outpatient clinics, investigations, and interventions such as broncoscopy, PCI or vascular surgery (depending on clinical specialty). The IPE week also offered additional clinical learning opportunities such as attending wards with clinical pharmacists.

140

We delivered a number of tutorials over the course of the week which were attended jointly by the students. The multidisciplinary faculty who taught during the week included physicians, surgeons, and pharmacists. Students were provided with case studies and, within their pairs, were asked to jointly produce a PowerPoint presentation typically focusing on clinical therapeutic management.

147

The students also completed mini-Clinical Evaluation Exercises (mini-CEX) 148 in their pairings. This was a formative assessment where we observed 149 students taking a clinical history from a patient on a ward setting. The 150 medical student was asked to open the history and explore the presenting 151 complaint, history of presenting complaint and past medical history before 152 153 the pharmacy student took over to complete the history, including the drug history. At the end of the mini-CEX, we conducted verbal debrief and 154 provided written feedback to each of the students. Learning points were 155 linked back to the learning objectives of the IPE week as well as picking out 156 some of the specific learning points from the individual cases. 157

158

Finally, the week culminated in a ward-based immersive simulation, 159 conducted within the Highland Clinical Skills Centre, where the students 160 161 "acted-up" as qualified junior pharmacists and doctors. Within their pairs, 162 the students were given an orientation to the simulation ward setting, including the equipment, the simulated patient and documentation available 163 as well as the nurse (confederate). We designed the simulation scenario, 164 with defined learning objectives, such that the students were required to 165 work together to get through the simulation. At the end of the scenario, the 166 167 students were debriefed on their experience by the placement coordinator. 168

169

170 Evaluation

To explore students' views and experiences with the IPE week, we invited all pharmacy and medical students of the January 2020 IPE week cohort to participate in focus groups at the end of their placement.

174

We applied the Kirkpatrick Four-Level Training Evaluation Model¹⁴ (see box
2) when designing the evaluation so as to objectively determine the impact
of training programmes and their effectiveness. The model is based on four
levels; reaction, learning, behaviour and results. The current evaluation of
the Highland IPE week focused on Levels 1 and 2.

180 [Insert Box 2]

181

182 Sample and recruitment

Prior to the start of their placement, all medical and pharmacy students who were expected to attend the January 2020 delivery (n=10) were emailed by the placement coordinator inviting them to participate in the focus groups and informing them of their times and locations if they wish to participate.

188 Data generation

We devised a focus group topic guide based on our experience and 189 published literature, and underpinned by the Theoretical Domains 190 Framework (TDF)¹⁵. The TDF summarises key elements of 33 theories and 191 proposes that determinants of behaviour cluster into 14 domains. Those 192 193 domains most relevant (e.g. knowledge, beliefs about capabilities and consequences, motivation and goals, environmental context and resources) 194 were used to guide construction of interview core questions. TJ piloted the 195 questions in an informal educational feedback session on a previous cohort 196 of students and changes / modifications were made. As shown in Box 3, the 197 final set of questions focused on exploring students' views and experiences 198 within the IPE week in general. 199

200 [Insert Box 3]

201

We conducted two focus groups to allow for honest reflection within each professional group; one with medical and one with pharmacy students. All focus groups were approximately 60 minutes in duration and were conducted face-to-face in Inverness by a trained researcher (TJ). The focus groups were recorded and transcribed verbatim and checked for accuracy of transcribing prior to analysis.

208

209 Data analysis

210 We undertook thematic analysis of the data using the TDF and the interview

schedule as thematic guides. Analysis was performed by two research

212 members independently with any disagreements resolved through

discussion. In reporting this study, the Consolidated Criteria for Reporting

214 Qualitative Studies (COREQ) was followed.

215

216 *Ethics and governance*

The evaluation protocol received approval from the ethical review panel of

the School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences at Robert Gordon University and

adhered to all relevant research governance and ethics policies including the

220 Declaration of Helsinki (1964). Informed consent was collected from all

interviewees prior to commencing the focus groups.

222

223 <u>Results</u>

Two 60-minute focus groups were conducted; one with pharmacy (n=5)

and another with medical (n=4) students. One medical student was unable

to attend the focus group due to illness.

227

228 We identified multiple key themes from participant narratives, which we

229 mapped under three categories. Category 1: overall perception of

230 experience – (themes: better than previous IPE experience; greater

231 exposure to clinical pharmacy). Category 2: student interactions –

232 (themes: learning with a buddy; understanding of interprofessional roles).

233	Category 3: suggestions for improvement – (themes: choice of relevant
234	clinical rotation and content; increase learning from clinical pharmacists;
235	better orientation to placement). These categories and themes are explored
236	in more detail in Table 1. Overall, students reported that the Highland IPE
237	week was more beneficial when compared to previous IPE events. They
238	believed that this week allowed them to consolidate knowledge gained from
239	their degrees and get exposed to new experiences (such as clinical
240	pharmacy for medical students). Students also reported that, as a pair, they
241	were able to learn better about patient care in general and about each
242	other's profession and are subsequently better prepared for a more
243	collaborative practice in the future. However, they did express a desire to
244	change the clinical area where the placement will be conducted in future, to
245	allow both students to gain the most out of this week. Time spent with
246	clinical pharmacists was highly valued by all students who encouraged
247	embedding more of it in future placements.
248	
249	[Insert Table 1]
250	
251	Implications
252	Due to coronavirus complications, data were only collected from one cohort
253	(January 2020) thus results should be interpreted with caution.
254	
255	The IPE placement was well-perceived by students who highlighted its
256	impact on improving their learning experience and providing insight into
257	their future practice. As a result of this evaluation, we have made some

changes to the design of the placement week; in particular, it has been
offered to students as part of a long-term conditions block hosted in an
older adults unit. There was thought to be plenty of scope for both sets of
students to optimise the interprofessional placement learning opportunity
within this clinical specialty. Three one-week placements are planned for the
coming academic year and all have successfully recruited students.

264

The authors recommend that other Schools of Pharmacy and Medicine 265 consider co-production of similar IPE placements and then embed these 266 within their curricula in an effort to better prepare students for real-life 267 268 collaborative practice. Particular attention should be paid to the hosting specialty and how to ensure sufficient patient contact for all students given 269 increased student numbers in clinical areas. We also recommend having a 270 robust plan for the orientation of students arriving on placement. Beyond a 271 geographical orientation of the placement site for all students, faculty 272 should set expectations of how students will communicate and work to help 273 each other through the week, giving examples of how the students could 274 275 get the most from their placement.

276

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337

Box 1: The learning objectives for the IPE placement week

- 1. Demonstrate a deeper understanding of the role of other health care professionals.
- 2. Apply practical experience in the treatment and management of patients with cardiac, respiratory, vascular disease.
- 3. Analyse understanding of the importance of appropriate prescribing, including the practical problems of prescribing, including the use of Personal Formularies.

Box 2: The Kirkpatrick Four-Level Training Evaluation Model

•	Level 1 – Reaction; relates to how training was valued by participants and how
	engaged they were with it.
•	Level 2 – Learning; relates to the benefits acquired as a result of the training in
	terms of developed skills, attitudes, knowledge, and confidence.
•	Level 3 – Behaviour; relates to the extent to which participants apply their training
	often in real life situations.
•	Level 4 – Results; relates to the extent to which the training has impacted
	outcomes relevant to an organisation.

Box 3: Focus Group Topic Guide

- Overall, how would you describe your experience?
- What were the positive aspects of this week? Anything you particularly liked?
- What about the negatives?
- Have you been on other placements? How does this one compare? What are the biggest differences then between this placement and other placements that you've been on?
- What are your views of the different activities you were involved in this week?
- Is there anything you would like to be changed (added or removed) to improve your experience during this week?
- How did you get along with your partner?
- Did you feel you learned more/better because you were with them? How, if at all, did working with him or her influence your learning?
- How do you think this experience would impact your future practice? Did you learn anything that you would like to implement in any future placements/career?
- As a result of taking part in this week, do you think you are now more confident to go and talk to other people (other healthcare professionals, patients ...etc.)?
- Do you think the week has changed your understanding of the role of a pharmacist/doctor? In what way?
- Would you recommend this type of teaching as a way of learning?

344

345

Category	Theme	Definition	Quotes
(1) Overall	Better than	Students noted that it was better than any	"This doesn't even compare to previous IPE that I felt was
perception of	previous IPE	previous IPE experience they had as it was the	completely pointless in the past because we basically just did
experience	experience	first time they were allowed to work alongside	team building exercise and then never saw the people again.
		another healthcare student in a real-life practice.	I think this was better." M3
			"They were just showing us what they do on a day-to-day
			basis Usually when you go on a placement, they will have a
			list of things and it's not probably what they have actually ir
			their day-to-day." P3

Greater exposure	Medical students were particularly impressed with	"She was speaking to me about a few different resources
to clinical	clinical pharmacists and how they were able to	and how I could get in contact with a pharmacist if I needed
pharmacy	learn a lot from them.	help prescribing something, and so that was good because I
	The week was also praised by students as it	didn't know those services were available." M4
	allowed them to experience things they would not	
	have exposure to otherwise during their studies.	"Another good bit I thought was the tutorials we did because
		they had more of a pharmacology focus, which we don't
		normally get, but it's still really important." M4
		"We've had a couple of tutorials with the pharmacists [before]
		but nothing like this week. This week has been by far the best
		pharmacology teaching." M1
		"I was able to sit through a surgery and that's something,
		without IPE, I wouldn't have been able to experience, like at
		all." P5
		"We got to see a lot of conversation between the doctors and
		occupational health in terms of managing patients at home
		We have seen a lot of IPE-type [sic interprofessional] things
		going on between referring to different services all over the
		highlands." P3
		"I feel like I probably could tell you a lot more now than what
		I would from what were taught at uni, so as much as I
		understood it then, my understanding is completely
		different." P3

(2) Student	Learning with a	Students from both professions enjoyed doing this	"I quite enjoyed having her there, I got on with her, and
interactions	buddy	placement together and reported that, as a result,	when we did a history together, it worked really well." M2
		they were able to learn better.	
			"I learned so much from medical student just like a lot of
		Being paired with a medical student was	terms that came up and then I would then explain the
		considered beneficial to help pharmacy students	pharmacology so we've been able to just kind of do half and
		interact with them without feeling intimidated.	half to get the whole picture." P1
			"I think it's quite healthy to integrate us because in a few years we all will be working together, and I think that mixing us in early is a good thing to do." M2
			"It was nice being with medical students, because they're students as well, there's still stuff that they're learning, so talking to them about different things, it didn't feel uncomfortable." P3
	Understanding of	The week was also believed to help students	"I chatted with [partner] quite a bit about pharmacy and their
	interprofessional	better understand each other's profession and the	career routes and I learnt more about what they can do we
	roles	different roles they can perform.	don't really cover that otherwise." M4
			"I think it's really nice to have that kind of peer environment we've kind of built up a relationship of understanding what each other knows and doesn't know, and the benefits of discussing things together." P3

(3)	Choice of	Most students were placed in cardiovascular or	"The pharmacists don't get taught anything about vascular
Suggestions	relevant clinical	respiratory wards except for one pair who were	surgery, so I felt kind of sorry for [partner] who I was with,
for	rotation and	allocated to vascular surgery. This was considered	she was put in a ward that has very little pharmacy input
improvement	content	a poor choice as pharmacists usually have little	anyway." M1
		input in this area.	
			"Being on vascular [ward] felt quite out of joint almost,
			because there wasn't really much pharmacy side, so the
			medic was having to explain everything." P1
		Also, medical students did highlight that they had	"We certainly had far less contact time this week, I must say,
		less clinical contact with patients compared to	but when you double the amount of students on a ward, I
		their regular placements.	don't really think there's any way around that." M1
	Increase learning	Both medical and pharmacy students expressed	"I was with [clinical pharmacist] for like 3 hours I learned
	from clinical	interest in attending more clinical pharmacist	loads I'd quite like to have stuff with the ward pharmacist."
	pharmacists	wards and advocated for incorporating this into	M2
		future placements as the current week was more	
		focused on medical activities.	"Me and my medical student only saw a pharmacist today it
			has been good for us to see the medical side, but I don't
			think the balance has been there with the medical students
			getting to see the pharmacy side." P4
	Better orientation	In addition, students also pointed that they	"I think it was good, I would do it again, but again [needs]
	to placement	require a better introduction to the IPE week and	more structured approach and just 100% knowing what our
		the students they are partnering with.	role is, and what we're meant to do with it, would be helpful
			at introduction maybe." M3
		One medical student noted that sometimes they	
		had to take on a more mentoring role than	"She [student pharmacist] couldn't follow exactly what was
		anticipated.	going on, so at times, I would be trying to explain it. I wanted

	to try and help them have a good time, but I don't know if
	that was our role." M4